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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/443,115	11/18/1999	MASAHIKO MURATA	862.3138	6777

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MADELEINE ANH VINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/443,115

Applicant(s)

MURATA ET AL.

Examiner

Madeleine AV Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liguori (US Patent No. 5,841,898).

Concerning claim 1, Liguori discloses an image processing system (Figs.1, 23) comprising a plurality of rendering means for respectively render color component images on the basis of data common to the respective color components; and conversion means for converting the rendered color component images into color component images for printing in synchronism with operation of a printer engine (col. 3, line 28 – col. 4, line 65; col. 15, line 25 – col. 16, line 63; col. 18, lines 12-63).

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Concerning claims 2-9, Liguori further teaches a memory having a memory capacity large enough to render at least a two-band color component image obtained by dividing a page into bands wherein said memory is divided into areas in units of bands (Figs.2-9), and the divided areas are alternately used for the image rendering operation and outputting of an image to said conversion means (Figs.11, 17, 24-26); a rendering control means for supplying the data to each of the plurality of rendering means at substantially the same time and controlling and rendering means to simultaneously render additive color mixture images; output means (Fig.23) for the color component images for printing to the printer engine in accordance with the operation of the printer engine; means for compensating for timing differences in forming the respective color component images in the printer engines (25, 35); the data common to the respective color components is made up of a display list and print element data in an order of occurrence; the print element data is image data representing one of a character, symbol, graphic pattern, color data and image data (col. 3, line 41 – col. 5, line 3; col. 6, line 18 – col. 7, line 24; col. 8, lines 23-42; col. 9, line 29 – col. 11, line ; col. 12, lines 4-67; col. 14, line 58 – col. 15, line 50; col. 18, lines 6-63; col. 20, lines 6 – col. 21, line 11).

Claims 10-12 are method claims of apparatus claims 1-9 above. Claims 10-12 are rejected as claims 1-9.

Concerning claim 13, Liguori discloses a computer program product in computer 2 comprising a computer readable medium storing program code for image processing as discussed in claim 1 above.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Okubo et al (US Patent No. 4,979,129) discloses a digital color converting apparatus wherein one of a plurality of input image signals is identified to determine a color to be rendered.

b. Ideyama (US Patent No. 6,345,118) teaches an image processing apparatus wherein image read by an image reader is rendered into binary data and then is stored in a document reading memory.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Madeleine AV Nguyen whose telephone number is 703 305-4860. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 703 305-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872-9314 for regular communications and 703 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 305-4700.

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Anh Vinh Nguyen

Madeleine AV Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622

AV
September 30, 2002